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 C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 057546

E.O. 12356 DECL: OADR
 TAGS: IPU, PREL
 SUBJECT: 71ST IPU CONFERENCE: SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM

REF: GENEVA 1508

1. C-ENTIRE TEXT

2. DEPARTMENT OFFICER HAS CONSULTED WITH STAFFER TO U.S. IPU CODEL ON IRAQI PROPOSED SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA ITEM FOR THE 71ST INTERPARLIAMENTARY UNION CONFERENCE. STAFFER AGREED IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO INTRODUCE BROADER ADDITIONAL SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM TO COUNTER IRAQI MOVE EVEN THOUGH IT IS ALREADY A PERENNIAL ISSUE. HE NOTED THAT PAST PRACTICE HAS BEEN FOR IPU SECRETARIAT TO ATTEMPT TO BROADEN SUCH SUBJECTS, AND THAT IT MIGHT DO SO IN THIS INSTANCE.

3. STAFFER SAID IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO GET CODEL CHAIRMAN (PEPPER, D, FLA.) TO FOCUS ON THIS ISSUE IN TIME TO MEET THE MARCH 2 DEADLINE BECAUSE OF THE LATTER'S HEAVY CALENDAR. HE SUGGESTED THAT ISRAELIS WOULD SAVE TIME BY GOING DIRECTLY TO EUROPEANS TO ELICIT THEIR SUPPORT IN PRESENTING COUNTER PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD COVER A BROADER ISSUE SUCH AS "GROWTH OF

INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM."

4. COMMENT: DEPARTMENT AGREES IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE TO HAVE A BROADER SUBJECT ITEM THAN THAT PROPOSED BY IRAQ, EVEN THOUGH ISSUES ADDRESSED ARE ALREADY PERENNIAL. GROUND RULES IN IPU ARE SUCH THAT MIDDLE EAST TOPICS IN PARTICULAR ARE ALMOST ALWAYS DISCUSSED OR INTRODUCED INTO RESOLUTIONS REGARDLESS OF THEIR APPROPRIATENESS. MISSION MAY URGE ITS EUROPEAN COUNTERPARTS TO CONTACT THEIR PARLIAMENTARIANS TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE ON THIS ISSUE AS IT APPEARS UNLIKELY THAT THE U.S. CODEL WILL BE IN A POSITION TO FORMULATE A POSITION BY MARCH 2. SHULTZ
 END OF MESSAGE CONFIDENTIAL

State Dept. review completed

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